

Gabul Creation Story

The Aboriginal people of this area are placed in their country through the creation story of Gabul, the carpet snake. Here in the Townsville region, the Wulgurukaba story of the journey of Gabul explains the shape of the coast, its islands and its rivers.

Gabul came from the north, slithering between Hinchinbrook Island and the coast to form the Hinchinbrook Channel. He continued south to create the Palm Islands, forming the smaller ones first then looping east to form the largest island in the group.



Original map by Nick Heijm, reproduced by Balarinji

He rested there and laid some eggs then moved on to Yunbenun [Magnetic Island], where his head is resting at Arcadia there, and a part of the snake around at West Point as we see over there. You see the beach over there on the island, he rested there also before eventually coming across to the mainland and up Ross River, doing his creation with the rivers and landscape there, we call him Gabul in this area, and then from there he moved to the mountains and travelled on. (Aboriginal Elder)

